REMARKS

The Office Action dated July 9, 2008, and made final, has been carefully reviewed, and the following remarks have been made in consequence thereof.

Claims 1-25 and 27-41 are now pending in this application. Claims 1-25 and 27-41 stand rejected.

The rejection of Claims 1-25 and 27-41 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over "Networked VR System: Kitchen Layout Design for Customers" by Fukuda et al. (hereinafter referred to as "Fukuda") in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,970,472 to Allsop et al. (hereinafter referred to as "Allsop") is respectfully traversed.

Fukuda describes a networked virtual reality kitchen design system that allows customers to create a preliminary kitchen design on the Internet and to edit the preliminary design in three-dimensional space. After reviewing and editing the preliminary design on the Internet, customers are able to send the preliminary design to a showroom and to schedule a final review of the preliminary design with a design specialist in the showroom. During the final review session, customers are required to discuss detailed planning issues and budgeting issues with the design specialist in person. Notably, Fukuda does not describe or suggest displaying electronically, based upon an indication of at least one choice from among at least one available new building option, an amount of money remaining in a designated budget.

Allsop describes a method for performing electronic commerce on the Internet. The method includes establishing a Web Linked Dealer (WLD) that facilitates authorized sales of a given manufacturer's products. The WLD has an online shopping website that is accessible from a manufacturer's website. To operate the WLD, a server (50) is maintained with an Internet connection, and a number of order processing units (44-49) for processing product orders are maintained and operated on server (50). Each order processing unit (44-49) provides an electronic commerce interface by which a user can, through the WLD, purchase the manufacturer's products. Each order processing unit (44-49) includes a shopping basket

application (51) that displays current contents of a user's shopping basket. A shopping basket maintenance module (62) allows the user to edit the contents of the shopping basket. Notably, Allsop also does not describe or suggest displaying electronically, based upon an indication of at least one choice from among at least one available new building option, an amount of money remaining in a designated budget.

Claim 1 recites a method of managing building options, the method including "obtaining from a first user an indication of at least one available new building option for constructing a new building; causing the at least one available new building option to be electronically accessible to a second user upon electronic transmission of a valid authorization by the second user; providing information electronically on the at least one available new building option to the second user; obtaining electronically from the second user an indication of at least one choice from among the at least one available new building option; displaying electronically, based upon the indication of the at least one choice, an amount of money remaining in a designated budget; and providing the indication of the at least one choice to the first user."

No combination of Fukuda and Allsop describes or suggests a method of managing building options as recited in Claim 1. More specifically, no combination of Fukuda and Allsop describes or suggests displaying electronically, based upon an indication of at least one choice from among at least one available new building option, an amount of money remaining in a designated budget. In the response to arguments, the Examiner alleges that Fukuda describes, for example, that a budget for a new kitchen, will be checked and therefore allegedly reads on the feature of "displaying electronically, based upon the indication of the at least one choice, an amount of money remaining in a designated budget" as recited in Claim 1. Applicants respectfully disagree.

Fukuda describes at page 96 that "items to be checked in process 1, are normally very difficult to decide for a customer who is not professional and right now a system is under development employing a Genetic Algorithm (GA) [9] or an Artificial Life (AL) that makes kitchen design candidates and gives advice according to the customer's needs. For the time

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being these items are discussed and designed with the 'kitchen planer' in the showroom." (emphasis added). Applicants submit that a budget is one of the items listed in process 1 on page 95 that Fukuda concedes as not yet developed. That is, Fukuda clearly indicates that because a process to show a budget to a customer is not yet known, Fukuda requires a customer to wait for a final design review session to discuss budgeting concerns with a design specialist in person. Thus, contrary to the Examiner's allegation on pages 11 and 12 of the Office Action, Fukuda does not describe or suggest "displaying electronically, based upon the indication of the at least one choice, an amount of money remaining in a designated budget" as recited in Claim 1. Further, Allsop merely describes a Web Linked Dealer that allows a user to maintain and edit the contents of an online shopping basket and thus does not remedy the deficiencies of Fukuda in disclosing or rendering obvious the features of Claim 1.

In addition to the above rejection, the Examiner also relies on a new reference, U.S. Patent No. 3,251,543 to Bush ("hereinafter referred to as "Bush") as allegedly describing the feature of "displaying electronically, based upon the indication of the at least one choice, an amount of money remaining in a designated budget" as recited in Claim 1. Applicants respectfully disagree.

Bush describes an adding machine 24 for providing a running total of items selected for purchase. The adding machine 24 includes a plurality of keys or buttons 26 positioned on a front wall 16 of an attachment to be easily accessible to a customer. A display space 10 contains a plurality of openings or windows 28 through which the running or cumulative total of an amount registered in the adding machine 24 is displayed. That is, Bush merely provides a customer with a calculator attached to a grocery cart so that the customer can enter the price of each item he/she placed in the grocery cart as they are shopping. Thus, like most calculators, the adding machine 24 maintains a running total of the prices entered into the adding machine 24. However, the prices of items (alleged building options) are not automatically entered and totaled, but are manually entered and totaled by the customer. Further, nowhere does the adding machine 24 display a designated budget, rather a customer uses the calculated total of a cost of items displayed on the adding machine 24 to compare the

total cost to an amount of money the customer wishes to spend. That is, the budget of the customer is only known by the customer, not the adding machine 24. The adding machine 24 merely maintains a running total of amounts entered into the adding machine 24 by the customer. Therefore, Bush does not remedy the deficiencies of Fukuda and Allsop in disclosing or rendering obvious the features of Claim 1. Notably, Bush does not describe or suggest displaying electronically, based upon an indication of at least one choice from among at least one available new building option, an amount of money remaining in a designated budget.

Accordingly, Claim 1 is submitted as being patentable over Fukuda in view of Allsop, further in view of Bush.

Claims 2-14 depend, directly or indirectly, from Claim 1. When the recitations of Claims 2-14 are considered in combination with the recitations of Claim 1, Applicant submits that dependent Claims 2-14 are likewise patentable over Fukuda in view of Allsop, further in view of Bush.

Claim 15 recites a system of managing building options, the system including "a first processor adapted to obtain from a first user an indication of at least one available new building option; and a second processor adapted to allow the at least one available new building option to be electronically accessible to a second user upon electronic transmission of a valid authorization by the second user, said second processor adapted to obtain electronically from said second user an indication of at least one choice from among the at least one available new building option, said second processor adapted to display electronically, based upon the indication of the at least one choice, an amount of money remaining in a designated budget, and said second processor adapted to provide the at least one choice to said first user."

No combination of Fukuda and Allsop describes or suggests a system of managing building options as recited in Claim 15. More specifically, no combination of Fukuda and Allsop describes or suggests a second processor adapted to display electronically, based upon

an indication of at least one choice from among at least one available new building option, an amount of money remaining in a designated budget. In the response to arguments, the Examiner alleges that Fukuda describes, for example, that a budget for a new kitchen, will be checked and therefore allegedly reads on the feature of "said second processor adapted to display electronically, based upon the indication of the at least one choice, an amount of money remaining in a designated budget" as recited in Claim 15. Applicants respectfully disagree.

Fukuda describes at page 96 that "items to be checked in process 1, are normally very difficult to decide for a customer who is not professional and right now a system is under development employing a Genetic Algorithm (GA) [9] or an Artificial Life (AL) that makes kitchen design candidates and gives advice according to the customer's needs. For the time being these items are discussed and designed with the 'kitchen planer' in the showroom." (emphasis added). Applicants submit that a budget is one of the items listed in process 1 on page 95 that Fukuda concedes as not yet developed. That is, Fukuda clearly indicates that because a process to show a budget to a customer is not yet known, Fukuda requires a customer to wait for a final design review session to discuss budgeting concerns with a design specialist in person. Thus, contrary to the Examiner's allegation on pages 11 and 12 of the Office Action, Fukuda does not describe or suggest "said second processor adapted to display electronically, based upon the indication of the at least one choice, an amount of money remaining in a designated budget" as recited in Claim 15. Further, Allsop merely describes a Web Linked Dealer that allows a user to maintain and edit the contents of an online shopping basket and thus does not remedy the deficiencies of Fukuda in disclosing or rendering obvious the features of Claim 15.

In addition to the above rejection, the Examiner also relies on Bush as allegedly describing the feature of "said second processor adapted to display electronically, based upon the indication of the at least one choice, an amount of money remaining in a designated budget" as recited in Claim 15. Applicants respectfully disagree.

Bush, described above, Bush merely provides a customer with a calculator attached to a grocery cart so that the customer can enter the price of each item he/she placed in the grocery cart as they are shopping. Thus, like most calculators, the adding machine 24 maintains a running total of the prices entered into the adding machine 24. However, the prices of items (alleged building options) are not automatically entered and totaled, but are manually entered and totaled by the customer. Further, nowhere does the adding machine 24 display a designated budget, rather a customer uses the calculated total of a cost of items displayed on the adding machine 24 to compare the total cost to an amount of money the customer wishes to spend. That is, the budget of the customer is only known by the customer, not the adding machine 24. The adding machine 24 merely maintains a running total of amounts entered into the adding machine 24 by the customer. Therefore, Bush does not remedy the deficiencies of Fukuda and Allsop in disclosing or rendering obvious the features of Claim 15. Notably, Bush does not describe or suggest a second processor adapted to display electronically, based upon an indication of at least one choice, an amount of money remaining in a designated budget.

Accordingly, Claim 15 is submitted as being patentable over Fukuda in view of Allsop, further in view of Bush.

Claims 16-25 depend, directly or indirectly, from Claim 15. When the recitations of Claims 16-25 are considered in combination with the recitations of Claim 15, Applicant submits that dependent Claims 16-25 are likewise patentable over Fukuda in view of Allsop, further in view of Bush.

Claim 27 recites at least one program storage device readable by a machine, tangibly embodying at least one program of instructions executable by the machine to perform a method of managing building options, the method including "obtaining from a first user an indication of at least one available new building option for constructing a new building; causing the at least one available option to be electronically accessible to a second user upon electronic transmission of a valid authorization by the second user; providing information electronically on the at least one available new building option to the second user; obtaining

electronically from the second user an indication of at least one choice from among the at least one available new building option; displaying electronically, based upon the indication of the at least one choice, an amount of money remaining in a designated budget; and providing the indication of the at least one choice to the first user."

No combination of Fukuda and Allsop describes or suggests a method of managing building options as recited in Claim 27. More specifically, no combination of Fukuda and Allsop describes or suggests displaying electronically, based upon an indication of at least one choice from among at least one available new building option, an amount of money remaining in a designated budget. In the response to arguments, the Examiner alleges that Fukuda describes, for example, that a budget for a new kitchen, will be checked and therefore allegedly reads on the feature of "displaying electronically, based upon the indication of the at least one choice, an amount of money remaining in a designated budget" as recited in Claim 27. Applicants respectfully disagree.

Fukuda describes at page 96 that "items to be checked in process 1, are normally very difficult to decide for a customer who is not professional and right now a system is under development employing a Genetic Algorithm (GA) [9] or an Artificial Life (AL) that makes kitchen design candidates and gives advice according to the customer's needs. For the time being these items are discussed and designed with the 'kitchen planer' in the showroom." (emphasis added). Applicants submit that a budget is one of the items listed in process 1 on page 95 that Fukuda concedes as not yet developed. That is, Fukuda clearly indicates that because a process to show a budget to a customer is not yet known, Fukuda requires a customer to wait for a final design review session to discuss budgeting concerns with a design specialist in person. Thus, contrary to the Examiner's allegation on pages 11 and 12 of the Office Action, Fukuda does not describe or suggest "displaying electronically, based upon the indication of the at least one choice, an amount of money remaining in a designated budget" as recited in Claim 27. Further, Allsop merely describes a Web Linked Dealer that allows a user to maintain and edit the contents of an online shopping basket and thus does not

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remedy the deficiencies of Fukuda in disclosing or rendering obvious the features of Claim 27.

In addition to the above rejection, the Examiner also relies on a new reference, Bush, as allegedly describing the feature of "displaying electronically, based upon the indication of the at least one choice, an amount of money remaining in a designated budget" as recited in Claim 27. Applicants respectfully disagree.

Bush describes an adding machine 24 for providing a running total of items selected for purchase. The adding machine 24 includes a plurality of keys or buttons 26 positioned on a front wall 16 of an attachment to be easily accessible to a customer. A display space 10 contains a plurality of openings or windows 28 through which the running or cumulative total of an amount registered in the adding machine 24 is displayed. That is, Bush merely provides a customer with a calculator attached to a grocery cart so that the customer can enter the price of each item he/she placed in the grocery cart as they are shopping. Thus, like most calculators, the adding machine 24 maintains a running total of the prices entered into the adding machine 24. However, the prices of items (alleged building options) are not automatically entered and totaled, but are manually entered and totaled by the customer. Further, nowhere does the adding machine 24 display a designated budget, rather a customer uses the calculated total of a cost of items displayed on the adding machine 24 to compare the total cost to an amount of money the customer wishes to spend. That is, the budget of the customer is only known by the customer, not the adding machine 24. The adding machine 24 merely maintains a running total of amounts entered into the adding machine 24 by the customer. Therefore, Bush does not remedy the deficiencies of Fukuda and Allsop in disclosing or rendering obvious the features of Claim 27. Notably, Bush does not describe or suggest displaying electronically, based upon an indication of at least one choice from among at least one available new building option, an amount of money remaining in a designated budget.

Accordingly, Claim 27 is submitted as being patentable over Fukuda in view of Allsop, further in view of Bush.

Claims 28-40 depend, directly or indirectly, from Claim 27. When the recitations of Claims 28-40 are considered in combination with the recitations of Claim 27, Applicant submits that dependent Claims 28-40 are likewise patentable over Fukuda in view of Allsop, further in view of Bush.

Claim 41 recites a system for managing building options, the system including "means for obtaining from a first user an indication of at least one available new building option for constructing a new building; means for causing the at least one available new building option to be electronically accessible to a second user upon electronic transmission of a valid authorization by the second user; means for providing information electronically on the at least one new building option to said second user; means for obtaining electronically from said second user an indication of at least one choice from among the at least one available new building option; means for displaying electronically, based upon the indication of the at least one choice, an amount of money remaining in a designated budget; and means for providing the indication of the at least one choice to said first user."

No combination of Fukuda and Allsop describes or suggests a system for managing building options as recited in Claim 41. More specifically, no combination of Fukuda and Allsop describes or suggests means for displaying electronically, based upon an indication of at least one choice from among at least one available new building option, an amount of money remaining in a designated budget. In the response to arguments, the Examiner alleges that Fukuda describes, for example, that a budget for a new kitchen, will be checked and therefore allegedly reads on the feature of "means for displaying electronically, based upon the indication of the at least one choice, an amount of money remaining in a designated budget" as recited in Claim 41. Applicants respectfully disagree.

Fukuda describes at page 96 that "items to be checked in process 1, are normally very difficult to decide for a customer who is not professional and right now a system is under development employing a Genetic Algorithm (GA) [9] or an Artificial Life (AL) that makes kitchen design candidates and gives advice according to the customer's needs. For the time being these items are discussed and designed with the 'kitchen planer' in the showroom."

(emphasis added). Applicants submit that a budget is one of the items listed in process 1 on page 95 that Fukuda concedes as not yet developed. That is, Fukuda clearly indicates that because a process to show a budget to a customer is not yet known, Fukuda requires a customer to wait for a final design review session to discuss budgeting concerns with a design specialist in person. Thus, contrary to the Examiner's allegation on pages 11 and 12 of the Office Action, Fukuda does not describe or suggest "means for displaying electronically, based upon the indication of the at least one choice, an amount of money remaining in a designated budget" as recited in Claim 41. Further, Allsop merely describes a Web Linked Dealer that allows a user to maintain and edit the contents of an online shopping basket and thus does not remedy the deficiencies of Fukuda in disclosing or rendering obvious the features of Claim 41.

In addition to the above rejection, the Examiner also relies on a new reference, Bush, as allegedly describing the feature of "means for displaying electronically, based upon the indication of the at least one choice, an amount of money remaining in a designated budget" as recited in Claim 41. Applicants respectfully disagree.

Bush describes an adding machine 24 for providing a running total of items selected for purchase. The adding machine 24 includes a plurality of keys or buttons 26 positioned on a front wall 16 of an attachment to be easily accessible to a customer. A display space 10 contains a plurality of openings or windows 28 through which the running or cumulative total of an amount registered in the adding machine 24 is displayed. That is, Bush merely provides a customer with a calculator attached to a grocery cart so that the customer can enter the price of each item he/she placed in the grocery cart as they are shopping. Thus, like most calculators, the adding machine 24 maintains a running total of the prices entered into the adding machine 24. However, the prices of items (alleged building options) are not automatically entered and totaled, but are manually entered and totaled by the customer. Further, nowhere does the adding machine 24 display a designated budget, rather a customer uses the calculated total of a cost of items displayed on the adding machine 24 to compare the total cost to an amount of money the customer wishes to spend. That is, the budget of the
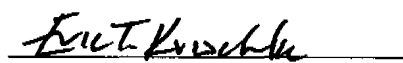
customer is only known by the customer, not the adding machine 24. The adding machine 24 merely maintains a running total of amounts entered into the adding machine 24 by the customer. Therefore, Bush does not remedy the deficiencies of Fukuda and Allsop in disclosing or rendering obvious the features of Claim 41. Notably, Bush does not describe or suggest a means for displaying electronically, based upon an indication of at least one choice, an amount of money remaining in a designated budget.

Accordingly, Claim 41 is submitted as being patentable over Fukuda in view of Allsop, further in view of Bush.

For at least the reasons set forth above, Applicant respectfully requests that the Section 103 rejection of Claims 1-25 and 27-41 be withdrawn.

In view of the foregoing amendment and remarks, all of the claims now active in this application are believed to be in condition for allowance. Reconsideration and favorable action is respectfully solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

Eric T. Krischke
Registration No. 42,769
ARMSTRONG TEASDALE LLP
One Metropolitan Square, Suite 2600
St. Louis, Missouri 63102-2740
(314) 621-5070